



American Recovery and Reinvestment Act

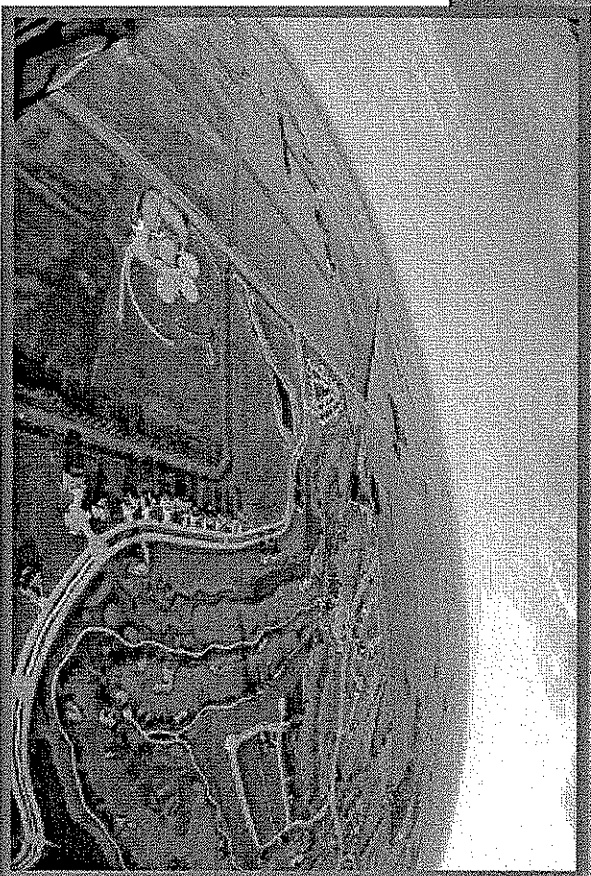
COMMUNITY SERVICES BLOCK GRANT

Claudette J. Beaulieu

Deputy Commissioner

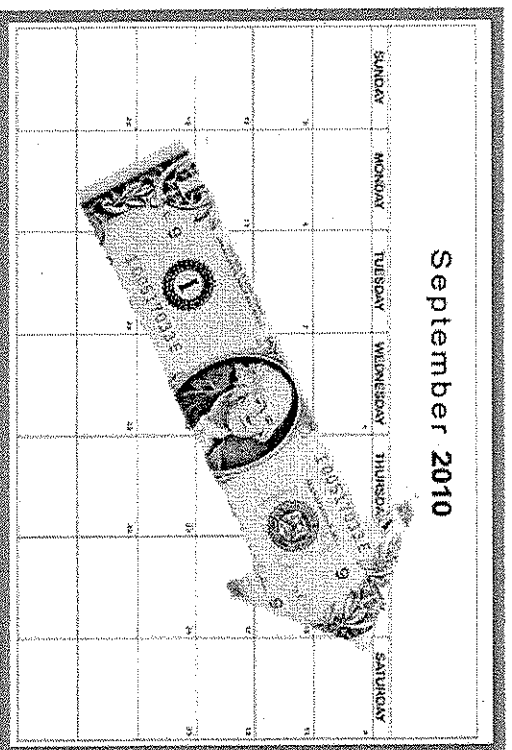
Thursday May 21, 2009

CSBG & ARRA Overview

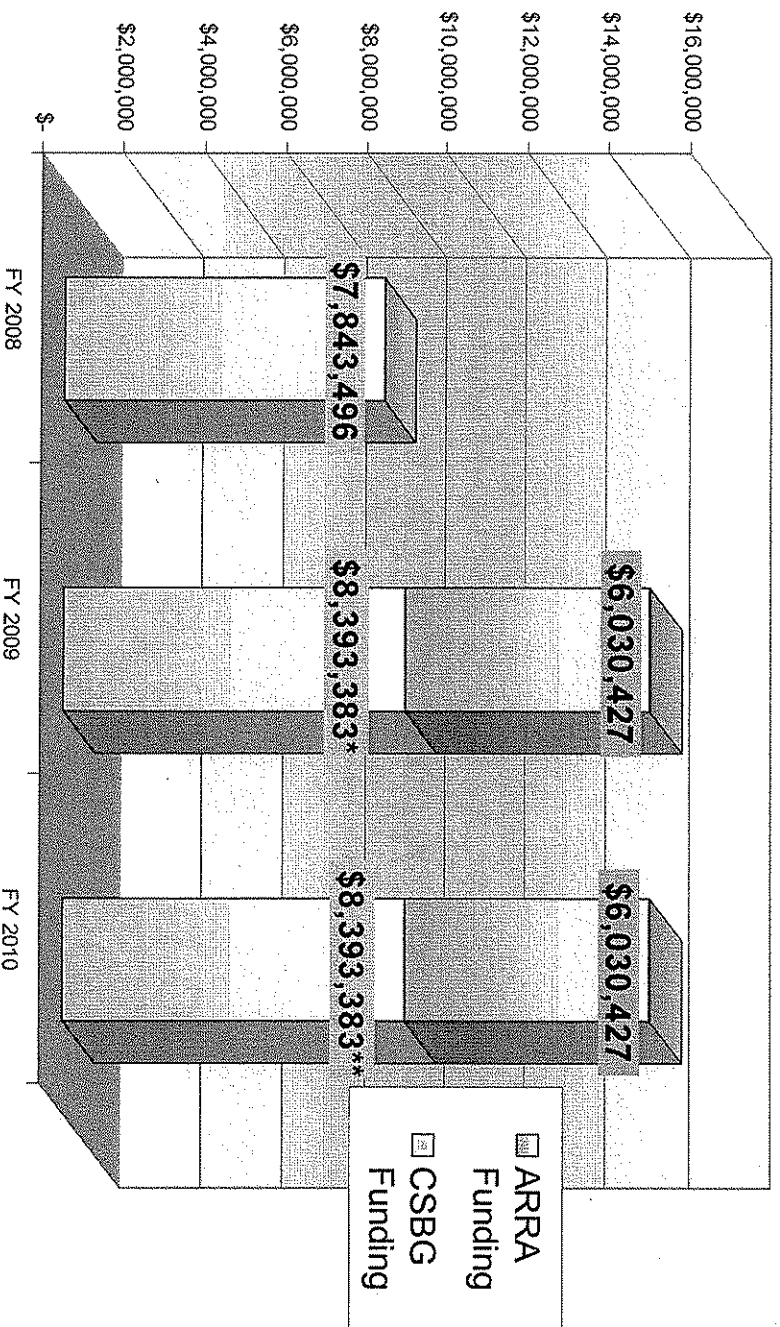


Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) & ARRA Overview

- Connecticut Department of Social Services will receive additional funding of \$12,060,854 for CSBG.
- These funds are temporary and must be spent by September 2010.



Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) & ARRA Overview



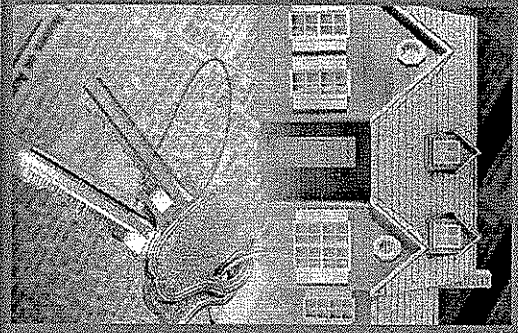
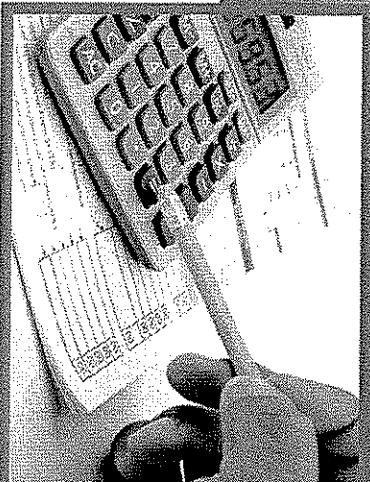
*DSS received a 6.5% increase in its regular FFY2009 CSBG allocation award in the amount of \$549,887 due to an increase in national funding levels.

**Assumes level funding in regular allocation

CSBG & ARRA – the Process

- In anticipation of ARRA funding, DSS met on April 23, 2009 with the planners from Community Action Agencies (CAAs) to identify ways to use the new funds.
- Connecticut Department of Social Services received initial template on April 27, 2009.
- Plan due to the federal Department of Health and Human Services by May 29, 2009.
- In accordance with CGS 17b-26, public hearing on proposed allocation plan held May 21, 2009 before legislative committees of cognizance.

CSBG Current Program



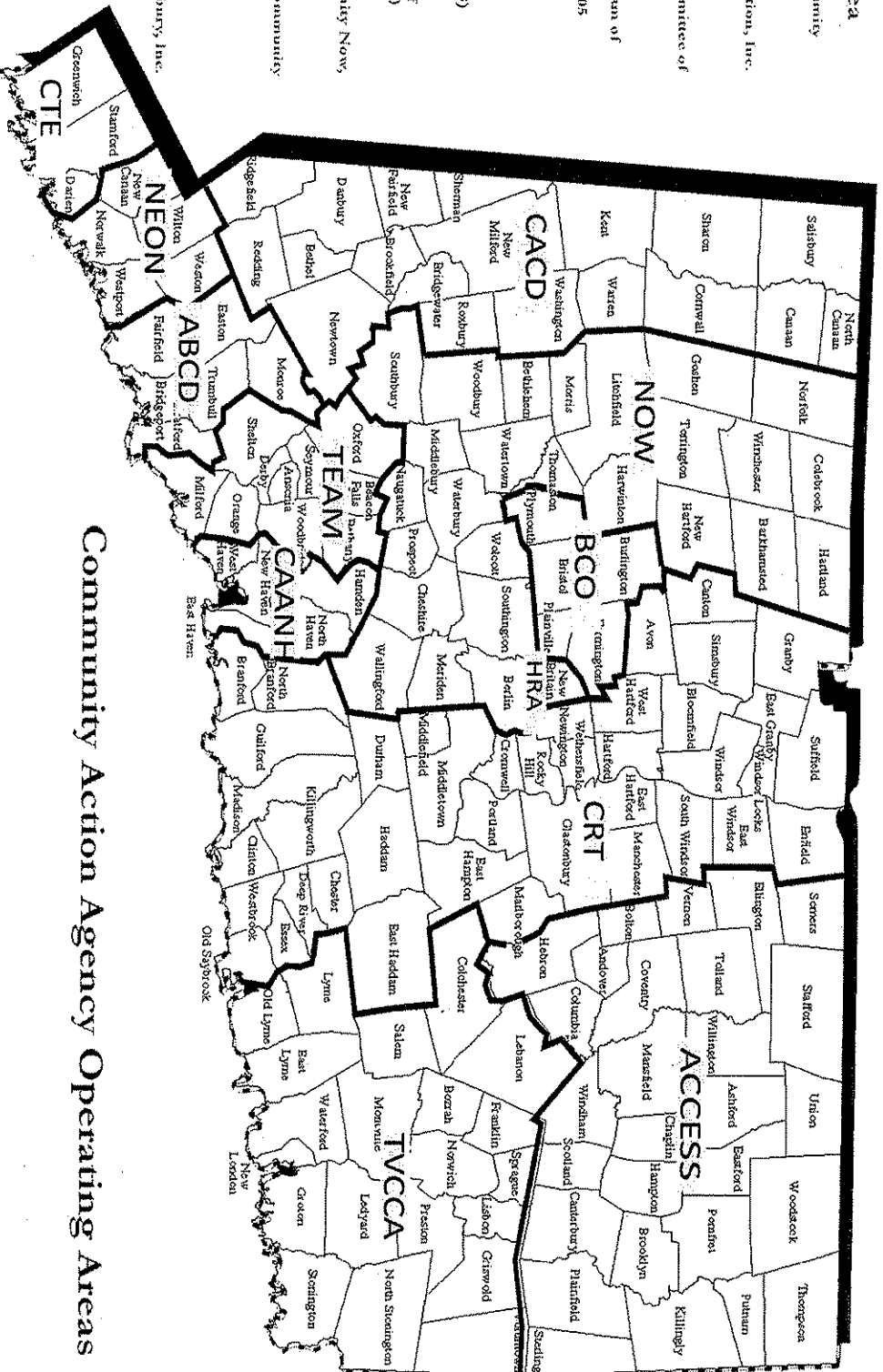
CSBG Program Overview

- The 12 CAAs have created an intake and assessment system to support movement towards self-sufficiency.
 - “One-Stop” approach – intake, eligibility, information and referral, client outcome measures
 - DDS, the CAA network and the United Way’s 2-1-1 Infoline work together as the Human Services Infrastructure (HSI).
 - Families and individuals living in poverty receive services in an integrated manner.

CT CAA Service Delivery Map

Community Action Agency Operating Area

- Action for Bridgeport Community Development, Inc. (ABCD)
(203) 384-6904
- Bristol Community Organization, Inc. (BCO)
(860) 582-7490
- The Community Action Committee of Danbury, Inc. (CACD)
(203) 748-5432
- The Community Renewal Team of Greater Hartford, Inc. (CRT)
(860) 560-5745 & (800) 798-3805
- TEAM, Inc.
(203) 736-5430
- Human Resources Agency of New Britain, Inc. (HRAoNB)
(860) 223-2288
- Community Action Agency of New Haven, Inc. (CAAoNHI)
(203) 397-5723; (203) 387-7700
- Norwalk Economic Opportunity Now, Incorporated (NEON)
(203) 854-1843; (203) 854-1880
- Thames Valley Council for Community Action, Inc. (TVCCA)
(860) 889-1365
- CTA, Inc. (CTA)
(203) 352-4846
- New Opportunities for Waterbury, Inc. (NOW)
(203) 575-9799 ext. 233 or 234
- The ACCESS Agency, Inc.
(860) 450-7400



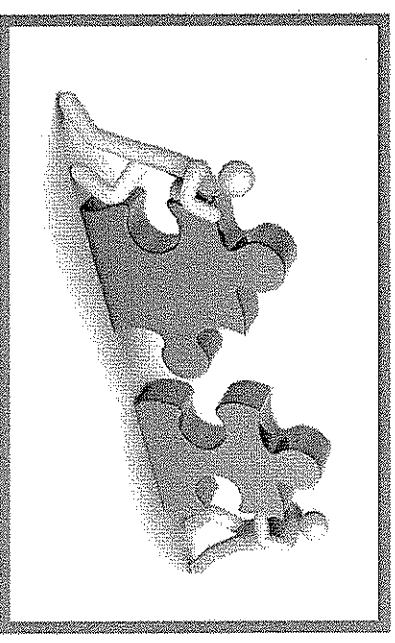
Community Action Agency Operating Areas

CSBG Program Funding & Partnerships

■ CAAs currently utilize federal CSBG funds, state HSI funds, as well as other funding streams.

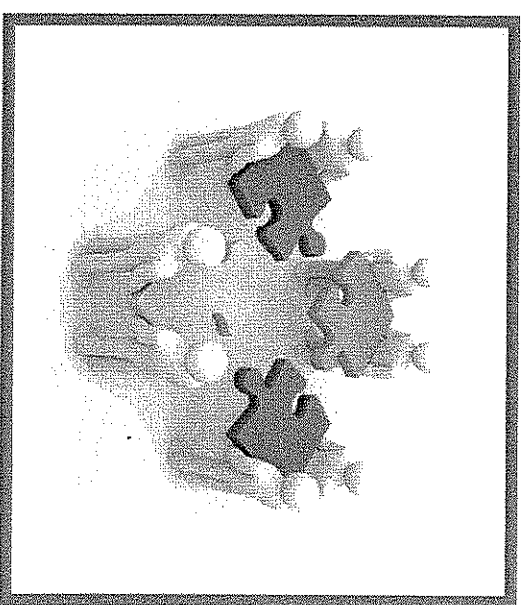
■ CAAs develop and maintain community partnerships:

- ☐ Local Business
- ☐ Faith Community
- ☐ Other Community Providers
- ☐ Federal, state and other local providers.



CSBG Funds Support...

- Employment services
- Income management services
- Housing assistance services
- Emergency services
- Nutrition services
- Health services



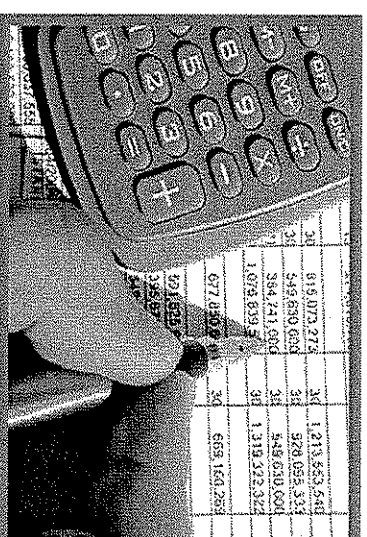
Employment Services

- Includes, but is not limited to:
 - Job counseling
 - Job-hunting training
 - Local labor market info
 - Job placement/development
 - Finding vacant positions
 - Setting up interviews
 - On-the-job training
 - Employment generating projects
 - Skills training
 - Immediate or recurring job opportunities



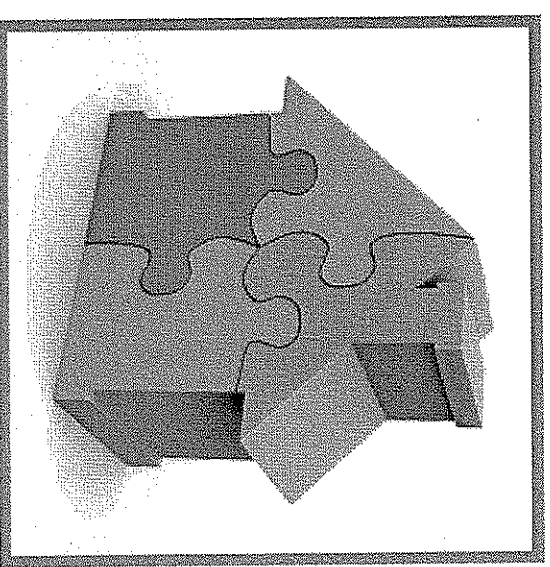
Income Management Services

- Includes, but is not limited to:
- ☐ Household financial counseling, information and referral services
 - Household budget
 - Credit information
- ☐ Income tax counseling
 - Assistance in preparing returns
 - Available tax credits and benefits to low income households
- ☐ Alternative energy installations, public information
 - Workshops on home energy conservation measures₁₂



Housing Assistance Services

- Includes, but is not limited to:
 - Homeownership counseling/loan assistance
 - Assistance in completing apps for various low-income loans
 - Other housing counseling and landlord/tenant advocacy
 - Applying for subsidies
 - Landlord/tenant relations
 - Home repair/rehabilitation
 - Offer both home repair for elderly/low-income household
 - Home maintenance workshops



Emergency Services

- Includes, but is not limited to:
 - Cash assistance/loans
 - One-time payment or short-term loans to meet emergency needs such as shelter, clothing or food
 - Emergency energy support
 - Supplemental fuel payments
 - Energy-related repairs
 - Crisis intervention & crisis case management
 - Direct intervention for child, spouse, drug or alcohol abuse
 - Temporary shelters
 - Mediation

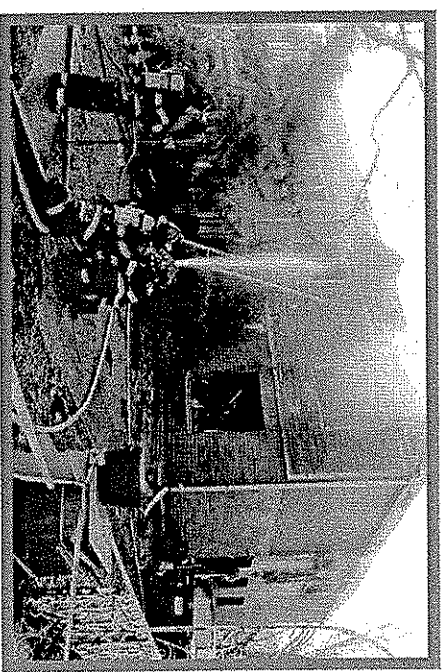
Emergency Services, cont

☐ Donated goods/services/cash

- Food, clothing, money, wood and other fuels

☐ Homeless services

- Temporary shelter
- Food program provisions
- Clothing
- Medical services



Nutrition Services

- Includes, but is not limited to:
 - ☐ Surplus Foods/commodities distribution
 - Storing and distribution of emergency food
 - ☐ Food pantries/shelves
 - Organization/operation of community distribution outlets
 - Preparation of food baskets
 - ☐ “Hot Meals”
 - Congregate or home-delivered for low-income consumers



Nutrition Services, cont.

☐ Nutrition education/comprehensive counseling

■ Home economics

■ Child and infant nutrition

☐ Other

■ Amplify or supplement Women, Infant and Children program

■ Summer programs for children

■ Transportation to community projects and programs



Health Services

■ Includes, but is not limited to:

- ☐ Transportation
- ☐ Medical or dental screening
- ☐ Immunization
- ☐ Drug abuse and alcoholism prevention
- ☐ Pregnancy, maternal and infant health



CAA-Provided Services

- In Connecticut, the CAAs operate vital programs:
 - ☐ Energy assistance
 - ☐ Eviction prevention
 - ☐ Weatherization
 - ☐ Child day care
 - ☐ Employment & training services
- In FFY 2008 the CAAs provided services to 294,232 Connecticut residents. Those services include:

CAA-Provided Services

- ❑ **Employment and Training**, helping 16,386 individuals eliminate or reduce barriers to employment by:
 - Completing job training programs
 - Obtaining certificates
 - Completing ABE/GED
 - Obtaining child care
- ❑ **Financial Literacy and Asset Development**, where 3,818 people demonstrated an increased ability to manage their income to build their savings or assets through various asset-development programs
- ❑ **Early Childhood Programs**, where 4,752 children birth to 5 attended quality programs that developed social and educational skills

CAA-Provided Services, cont.

☐ **Housing and Shelter Services**, where 22,434 individuals obtained, maintained or improved their housing arrangements

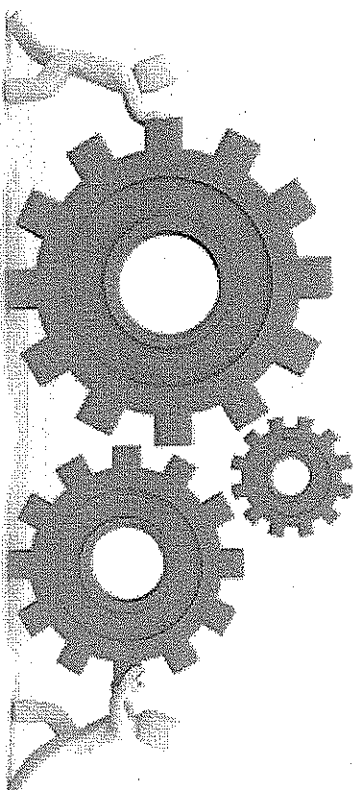
☐ **Energy and Weatherization Assistance**, helping 86,019 households avoid heat or utility termination, or other fuel crisis

☐ **Nutrition Services**, providing emergency or supplemental food to 23,291 households

CAA-Provided Services, cont.

- ❑ **Elderly Support**, assisting 25,828 seniors maintain active, independent living through specific services such as senior centers, home delivered meals, or home care
- ❑ **Youth Development and After School Services**, helping 3,544 youth improved their social/emotional development
- ❑ **Health Services**, to include Health Access, Services, Counseling, as well as AIDS Prevention and Counseling, insuring that 11,969 individuals obtain access to needed healthcare.

CSBG Enhancements Under ARRA



ARRA Priorities for CSBG

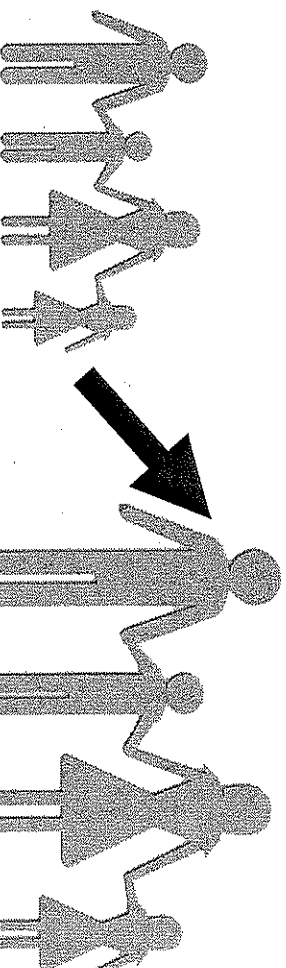
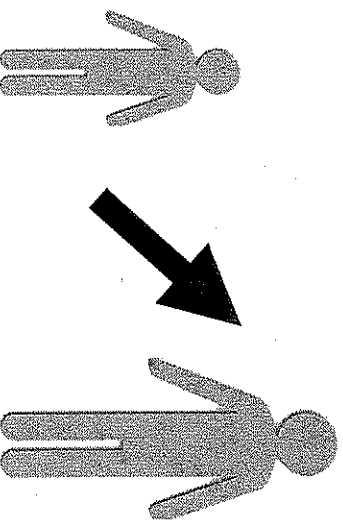
All regular CSBG program options are supportable; however, we are being encouraged to set a high priority for projects that create **sustainable** economic resources in communities by ensuring that eligible entities:

- ☐ Provide wide range of **innovative employment-related services** and activities tailored to specific needs of their community;
- ☐ Use funds in a manner that meets short-term and long-term economic and employment needs of individuals, families and communities; and
- ☐ Make meaningful and measurable progress toward goals of the Recovery Act with **special attention to creating and sustaining economic growth and employment opportunities**.

Who Qualifies Under ARRA

■ Current: 125% of the federal poverty guidelines - \$13,537 for one person, \$27,562 for a household of four

■ Proposed: 200% of the federal poverty guidelines - \$20,800 for one person, \$42,400 for a household of four



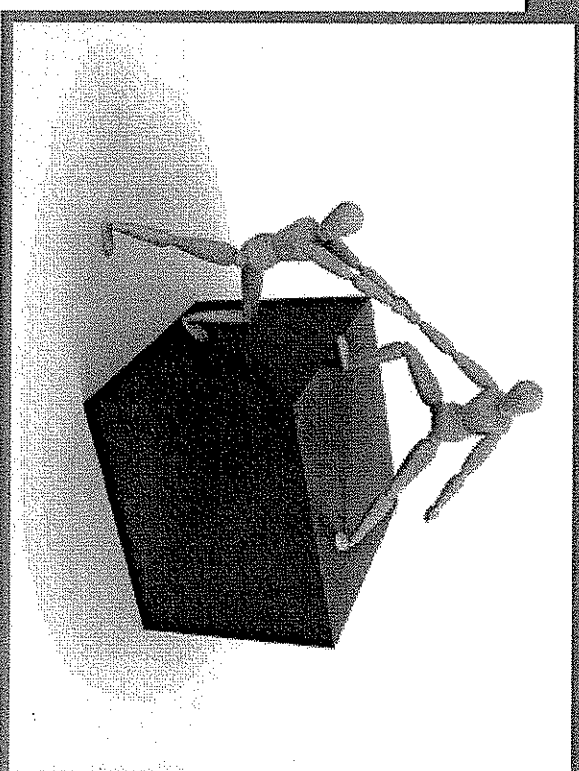
\$13,537

\$20,800

\$27,562

\$42,400

ARRA/CSBG Examples of Services



Employment Services

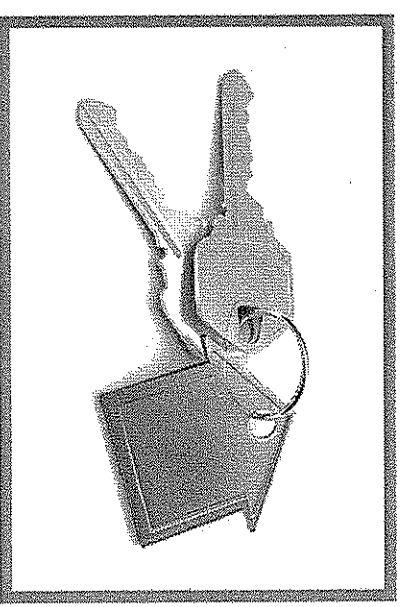
- Partner with local Workforce Investment Boards (WIBs) - short term training and job placement
 - Early childhood education program (training and career development)
- Expand on-the-job training (OJT), GED prep, mentoring
- Expand vocational skills training (culinary, home health care, etc.)
- Implement training program to move women into corporate jobs
- Develop programs for job retention
- Venture capital to launch for-profit enterprise under CAA to create jobs/maintain sustainability (shredding business, thrift store)
- Green job efforts to include training current HVAC and trades workers to become green certified, or to install solar panels produced by local manufacturer

Income Maintenance

- Partner with university – study on best practices in moving families out of poverty
- Expand income management programs
- Begin a “money matters” program (financial literacy)
- Financially appropriate housing
- Mortgage education
- Foreclosure counseling

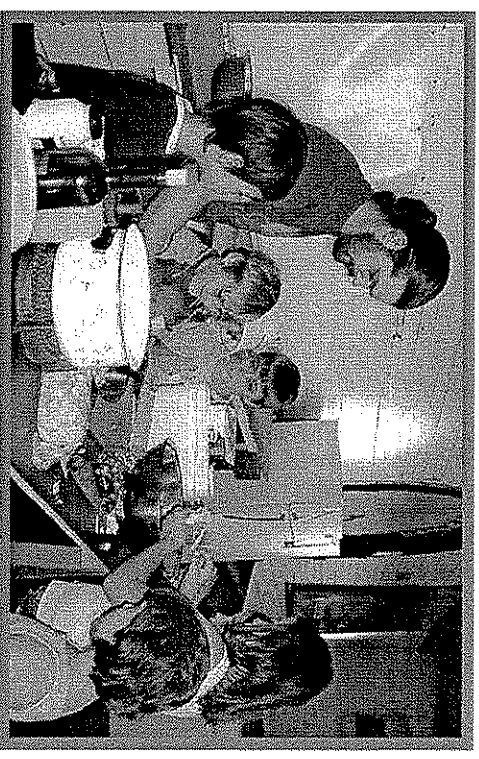
Housing Assistance

- Create complementary program to Eviction and Foreclosure Prevention Program (EFPP) with more expansive guidelines, including eligibility for the unemployed
- Leverage dollars for homelessness prevention
- Leverage dollars for eviction prevention
- Leverage weatherization dollars



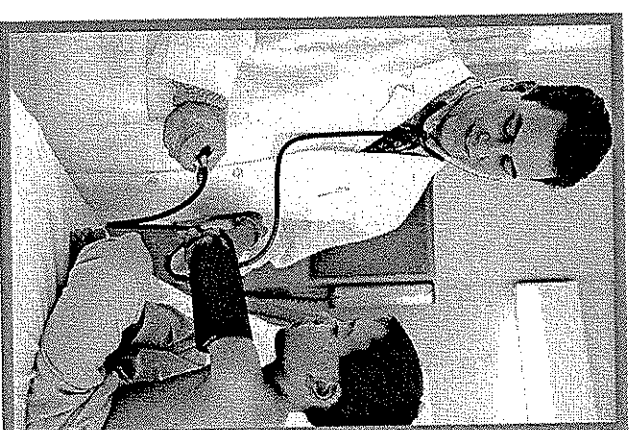
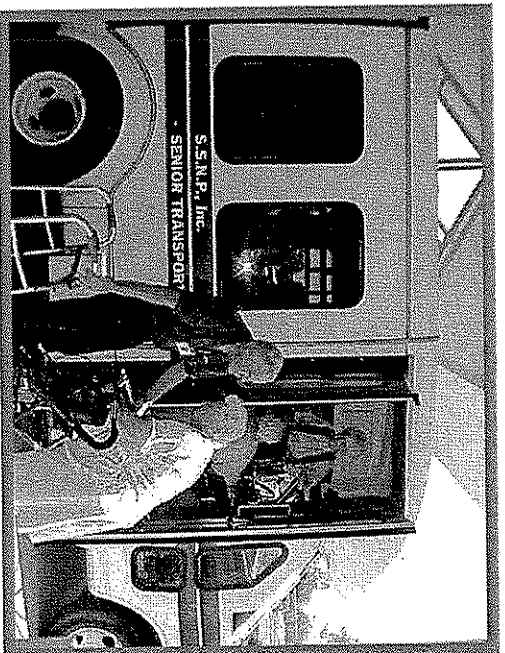
Nutrition

- Create “Open Choice” food pantry operation
- Expand nutrition education
- Develop after school program – tutoring, learning to cook



Health Services

- Expand transportation services
- Collaborate to provide medical, dental screening and immunization

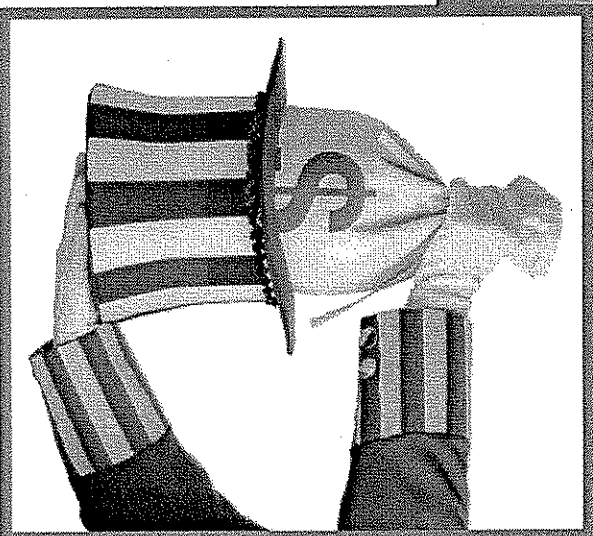


Other Services

■ Build capacity

- ☐ Hire/train new case managers
- ☐ Rent and/or renovate building space
- ☐ Start another Circles mentoring program
- ☐ Comprehensive Single Parents program - financial literacy, skill development, behavior modification
- ☐ Expand capacity for fund development
- ☐ Skill enhancement for existing staff
- ☐ Hire “Community Capacity Builder” – identify new partners, strengthen existing relationships, create community response to economic recovery

ARRA & CSBG Funding



How will ARRA & CSBG \$\$ be Distributed?

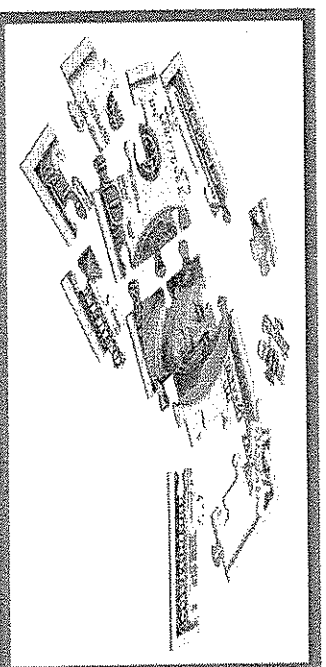
- States must pass through 99% of ARRA funding to eligible entities
- DSS must reserve 1% percent for benefits enrollment coordination to identify eligible individuals and families
- 12 CAAs and one Limited Purpose Agency (LPA) qualify as eligible entities to received CSBG funding in Connecticut

Fund Category	FFY 2009 Proposed Allocations
Eligible Entities	\$11,940,245
Benefit Enrollment Coordination	\$ 120,609
Total CSBG	\$12,060,854

How will ARRA & CSBG \$\$ be Distributed?

Cont...

- Presently, CAAs receive a base amount of CSBG funds equal to half their FFY 96 allocation.
- Remaining funds allocated to CAAs based on proportion of state's population in their region living at or below 200% of the federal poverty level.
- Allocations will be available to CAAs through September 30, 2010.
- Funds will be used by eligible entities to support programs that serve the purpose of the Recovery Act and to support implementation of the state's Human Services Infrastructure (HSI) project.



Proposed Allocation to Eligible Entities - ARRA

Eligible Entities	ARRA Proposed Allocations through 9/30/2010
Action for Bridgeport Community Development, Inc. (ABCD)	\$ 1,294,349
ACCESS Agency, Inc. (ACCESS)	765,963
Bristol Community Organization, Inc. (BCO)	336,372
Community Action Committee of Danbury, Inc. (CADC)	507,448
Community Action Agency of New Haven, Inc. (CAANH)	1,538,789
Community Renewal Team, Inc. (CRT)	2,923,814
CTE, Inc.	604,188
Human Resource Agency of New Britain, Inc. (HRANB)	462,936
Norwalk Economic Opportunity Now, Inc. (NEON)	357,651
New Opportunities, Inc. (NOW)	1,604,847
Training, Education and Manpower, Inc. (TEAM)	392,033
Thames Valley Council for Community Action, Inc. (TVCCA)	805,588
Connecticut Association for Community Action, Inc. (CAFCA)	346,267
TOTAL – Formula Allocations	\$ 11,940,245 ₃₆

Typical Allocation to Eligible Entities – 2008/2009

Eligible Entities	FFY 08	FFY 09
Action for Bridgeport Community Development, Inc. (ABCD)	\$848,671	\$ 891,435
ACCESS Agency, Inc. (ACCESS)	417,215	435,667
Bristol Community Organization, Inc. (BCO)	187,760	198,915
Community Action Committee of Danbury, Inc. (CACD)	243,385	257,853
Community Action Agency of New Haven, Inc. (CAANH)	1,029,094	1,082,983
Community Renewal Team, Inc. (CRT)	1,668,787	1,746,034
CTE, Inc.	375,496	390,463
Human Resource Agency of New Britain, Inc. (HRANB)	299,011	316,791
Norwalk Economic Opportunity Now, Inc. (NEON)	201,666	213,650
New Opportunities, Inc. (NOW)	879,625	920,904
Training, Education and Manpower, Inc. (TEAM)	210,011	221,017
Thames Valley Council for Community Action, Inc. (TVCCA)	453,372	478,870
Connecticut Association for Community Action, Inc. (CAFCA)	204,736	213,650
TOTAL – Formula Allocations.	7,018,828	7,367,231

ARRA & CSBG Oversight



CAA Reporting Requirements

- **DSS must:**
 - ☐ Keep all stimulus dollars separate
 - ☐ Track and report expenditures from the stimulus funds separately from the regular CSBG allotment.
- **DSS is developing new contracts to distribute ARRA funds and identify reporting requirements, including:**
 - ☐ Total amount of recovery funds received
 - ☐ Amount of recovery funds expended or obligated
 - ☐ Detailed list of projects – including name, descriptions, evaluation, job creation and retention numbers, purpose, cost and rationale
- ☐ **CAAs must submit their initial plan for the utilization of recovery funds by May 19, 2009 and their annual Community Action Plan (CAP) by June 30, 2009**

ARRA Tracking & Reporting

- In our efforts to ensure transparency and accountability, DSS will:
 - ❑ Establish new project codes for funds received from the ARRA
 - ❑ Develop new ARRA- CSBG contracts
 - ❑ Require separate audits – one each for ARRA funds and regular CSBG funds

